



Empower the young with talking objects is a 3-year Erasmus+ funded project. It runs from 2024-2027. Together with partners from Portugal, the Netherlands, and Belgium, we are developing activities for children aged 4-8 years and training for teachers on topics such as climate change and active citizenship

Partners in the Spotlight

WisMon



WisMon is a Dutch education institute focused on STEM, science and technology. With a dedicated team and over 15 years of experience, WisMon works to strengthen education and prepare students for the challenges of the future.

WisMon started as an institute in providing deficiency courses and professional development programmes for teachers in both primary and secondary education. WisMon has grown into an organisation who supports schools and organisations with strategic advice, implementation programs, and the development of future-oriented open learning materials.

WisMon's work is centred around making STEM education meaningful and engaging. Their expertise lies in numeracy, digital literacy, and 21st-century skills, with a strong emphasis on experienced-based and design-based learning. In

addition to working with schools, WisMon supports companies and foundations in creating and delivering educational and implementation programmes that make real impact.

A strong fit for the Empower the Young project, where WisMon led the development of the educational framework and now coordinates the evaluation and implementation across the partner countries.

Studio Kabritu

At the heart of every successful initiative lies a compelling story. As a dynamic and agile SME, Studio Kabritu specializes in shaping the communication and dissemination strategies of projects and products, ensuring that great ideas don't just stay on paper, but reach the audiences they are meant to inspire.

Studio Kabritu offers end-to-end support, offering guidance and creative input every step of the way. With more than 15 years of experience in designing and developing websites, we ensure that the message reaches the outside world through powerful digital platforms.

Our experience spans borders. Working with national and international partners, Studio Kabritu thrives on collaboration. We believe that transformative change happens when ideas are made accessible, inclusive, and well-communicated..

Within the Empower the Young project, Studio Kabritu is a proud partner to work on the communication and dissemination of the great educational project, encouraging the consortium to collaborate within their own communities on the wonderful products and activities of this project to make sure these are all supported by the people they are meant for.





From Brainstorm to Framework: Building the Foundation of Empower the Young

The journey to shape the educational foundation of *Empower the Young* has been both collaborative and inspiring. Together with our partners from Portugal, Belgium, and the Netherlands, we've created something we're truly proud of.

It all started with one essential question:
What really matters in learning?

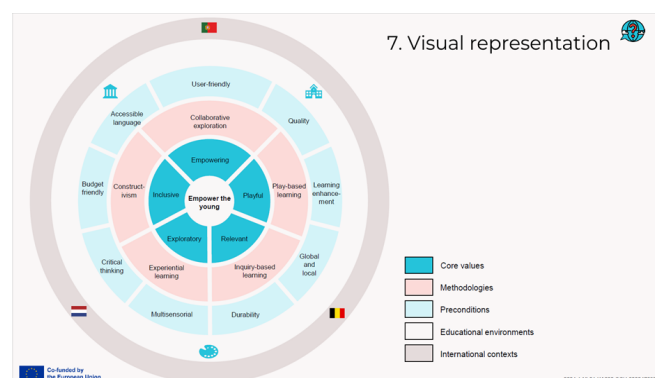
From our very first (online) meeting, we gathered ideas across countries and contexts of joy, play, curiosity, inclusion, and more. These became the seeds of our shared Learning Manifesto.

In-person in Leiden, we rolled up our sleeves and worked together to define five core values that now form the heart of our educational vision.



To ensure our approach reflects both ambition and real-world practice, we explored how learning happens in each partner country: What's typical in Portuguese classrooms? How do museums shape learning in Belgium? What support do Dutch teachers need around citizenship and sustainability?

We paired this with a focused dive into educational research especially around early childhood development. How do we nurture critical thinking, intrinsic motivation, and meaningful engagement with global issues?



From this rich mix of context, theory, and practice, we developed our **Educational Framework**: a hands-on guide that brings together core values, pedagogy, and design principles. It's our shared foundation created with schools, museums, and educators and it will guide all learning experiences throughout the project.

We're excited to see this framework come to life in classrooms, workshops, and museum spaces across Europe.

Stay tuned there's so much more to come!



Do you want to be involved? Call to action

Want to get involved?

The first prototype of our Tellmie will travel around our partners sites in november and december!
Do you want to get to know Creeture or be a test-school or test-family?

Get in touch with our partners:

November 3 - November 11

Wismon, Netherlands (workshop on climate change)

November 12 - November 22

Naturalis, Netherlands (tour on climate change)

November 19

If you are a teacher, you are also very welcome at the teacher night at Naturalis on November 19th!

November 24 - December 12

CCVALG, Portugal (workshop and tour on climate change)

December 15 - January 19

BAMMI!, Belgium (workshop on citizenship)

Tellmies Tech

For the Tellmie we are developing in this program, we have recently been focusing mainly on the development of the content side.

We are working on two formats and scripts.

Each format requires a different type of interaction and flow.

Workshop on Climate Change – This can be used by groups of children or families, as well as by school classes.

Tour on Climate Change – This can be used by families visiting the two museums that are part of the consortium.

Workshop Format

Together with all consortium partners, we have been working on the format for the workshop. Each organization provided input on what the Tellmie should be able to do, say, and which activities are suitable for the children to carry out during the workshop.

For Go Wonder, this is the first Tellmie we are creating specifically for use in a workshop setting, so we are very curious to see the test results!

Tour Format

Development for the tour has also started. In collaboration with Naturalis and CCVA, we are creating a format that works for both museums. They will then be able to fill in the content themselves.

Go Wonder has already created several tours for different museums, so we have a better idea of what works and what doesn't in that context.

Testing

The workshop and the tour formats and scripts will first be tested in the Netherlands (by Wismon and Naturalis), followed by tests in Portugal in November during the next live consortium meeting (and after), and finally, BAMM will conduct tests at their location in December.

Based on the test results, we will adjust the interaction, activities, and/or the Tellmie itself beginning next year.

Other topics

For the other topics, like citizenship, we will use the same format, but with a different script (texts). We will develop this later this year.

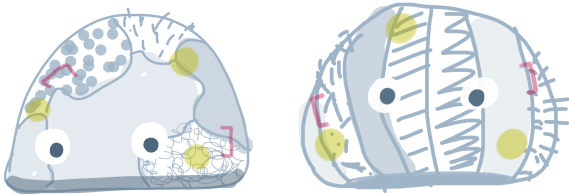




Furware

Alongside the content development, our seamstress is also working on a prototype of the furware. We will use a 'bloblike' creature that triggers imagination and is made from different materials - all secondhand.

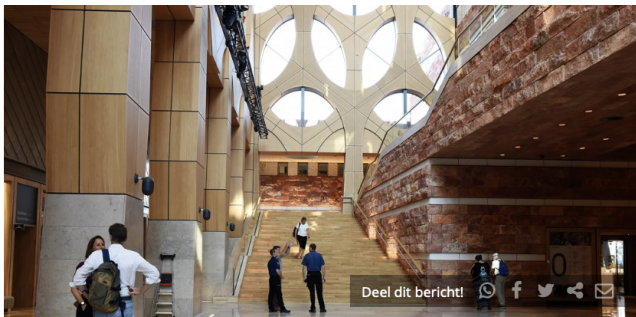
Sketches of the Tellmie:



Project in the spotlight!

The project was mentioned in the Newsletter of Leiden!

<https://sleutelstad.nl/2025/08/09/naturalis-zoekt-manieren-om-wereldproblemen-uit-te-leggen-aan-jonge-kinderen/>



Naturalis ontwikkelt nu educatieve programma's. (Foto: Emile van Aelst)

Naturalis zoekt manieren om wereldproblemen uit te leggen aan jonge kinderen

Leiden, 9 augustus 2025 om 18:07 uur door [Jan Frensen](#)

Hoe maak je complexe problemen begrijpelijk voor kinderen? Daar probeert onderzoeksinstituut Naturalis samen met internationale partners inzicht in te krijgen. Het onderzoek heet *Empower the Young* en het doel is om kinderen tussen de vier en acht jaar oud zaken als klimaatverandering begrijpelijk uit te leggen, en ze handvatten te geven hoe ze er wat aan kunnen doen.

Samen met onderzoekers uit Portugal en België wil Naturalis erachter komen hoe het creatieve vermogen van jonge kinderen ingezet kan worden om thema's als duurzaamheid en burgerschap te introduceren. Ze laten zich daarbij inspireren door films als *The Lorax* en klei-animatie *Savages*, die respectievelijk over natuurbescherming en ontbossing gaan. "Kinderen begrijpen veel, als je ze betrekt", aldus het museum annex onderzoeksinstituut.

Beweging

Naturalis ontwikkelt nu educatieve programma's. Daarnaast wordt een *Tellmie* ontwikkeld. Dat is een sprekend object dat kan worden ingezet in musea en scholen en bij workshops. Een Tellmie moet kunnen praten, reageren op aanraking en misschien zelfs op beweging.

De educatieve programma's moeten ouders inzicht geven in hoe ze hun kinderen kunnen vertellen over grote wereldproblemen. Ook helpt dit kinderen bij hun eigen rol in het maken van verschil, aldus Naturalis

Calendar

NOVEMBER 8, 2025

During the annual Petrol event of our Belgium partner BAMB, young youth workers experiment with the Tellmies from the Empower The Young project. The theme is climate change. Petrol is an open and free training day for young volunteers, artists, youth workers and other creative enthusiasts between the ages of 16 and 30.

NOVEMBER 19 2025

Our Dutch partner Naturalis Museum has their yearly teachers night where they invite teachers from primary and secondary education to their museum and of course there will be a Empower the Young activity as well!.

<https://www.naturalis.nl/agenda/docentenavond-bij-naturalis>

NOVEMBER 26 2025

We are excited to meet with our consortium partners for the second time within the project. This time we meet each other in Faro, Portugal where our partner Cienca Viva will welcome us for a 3 day meeting.